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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A discharge electrodes connecting structure for a laser apparatus comprising:

a pair of anode and cathode provided within a laser chamber for sealing a laser gas in an opposing manner, generating a discharge so as to excite a laser gas flowing therebetween and oscillating a laser beam;

a conductive anode base holding the anode;

an insulative cathode base holding the cathode; and

a return plate electrically connecting the anode base to said laser chamber so as to supply a current to the anode and having a thickness of equal to or more than 100 μm and equal to or less than 500 μm .

2. A laser apparatus comprising:

a laser chamber sealing a laser gas;

discharge electrodes constituted by a pair of anode and cathode provided within the laser chamber in an opposing manner, generating a discharge so as to excite a laser gas flowing therebetween and oscillating a laser beam;

a conductive anode base holding the anode;

an insulative cathode base holding the cathode; and

a return plate electrically connecting the anode base to said laser chamber so as to supply a current to the anode wherein a thickness (t) of the return plate is set to be equal to or more than 100 μm and equal to or less than 500

µm, and the return plate is arranged substantially in parallel to a gas flow of the laser gas flowing between said discharge electrodes.